

just a...sometimes it's apathy, sometimes it's hope that other people will file. Sometimes it's just a technical problem with the filing or not being able to get there in time, or whatever, but it's certainly more difficult to get on...to run a write-in campaign at a general election level than it is at a primary level, and I don't think we ought to be excluding potential candidates from the process in that...in that particular manner. I...I simply just have some concern with the amendment for that reason.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Withem, your light is next.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I would defer at this point.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Briefly...Madam President, and members of the Legislature, briefly I would agree with those who have suggested there is a benefit and I appreciate... maybe some additional cost but I like to know, I know, races that I'm interested in whether it's one I'm involved with or not what the vote is if the primary gives you an indication of how things stand. But, more importantly, if there is an issue that's central in the campaign and you have those votes and you know the position of the two candidates at the primary, you know how the public feels, it has some real benefit, I think, in the discussion of issues of knowing well ahead of what the public's viewpoint is on that difference of issue viewpoint of two candidates even though there's only two to be nominated or two running and two to be nominated. So I would agree that it would be better to have all offices not excluded because of the limited number of filing rather than expanded.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Warner. Any further discussion on the Withem amendment? Seeing none, Senator Withem, would you like to close?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, I would. And I don't know if the people that have spoken on this indicate the support or lack of support of this. If it is the case that the body is not supportive of this policy change, I would urge those, not to pick on them, but people like Senator Wickersham or Senator Lindsay or Senator Warner that have expressed...and Senator Moore, that have expressed concern going this way that maybe they would like to,